DE RUEHBE #0423 2712117 ZNY SSSSS ZZH (CCY ADEOA3B2 VSG0019-695) O 272117Z SEP 08 ZDS FM AMEMBASSY BELMOPAN TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1473 INFO RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE RUEHDJ/AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI IMMEDIATE RUEHKH/AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE RUEHKV/AMEMBASSY KYIV IMMEDIATE RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE RUEHRA/AMEMBASSY RIGA IMMEDIATE RHMFISS/CNO WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE RHMFISS/COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE RHMFISS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE RHMFISS/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL IMMEDIATE RHMFISS/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T BELMOPAN 000423

SIPDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y. ADDED ROUTING INDICATORS AND CHANGED SPELLING OF ADDRESSEES

FOR WHA/CEN ROIS BEAL

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/27/2018

TAGS: <u>EWWT MOPS PREL PHSA XA SO RS LG UP BH</u>

SUBJECT: BELIZE RESPONSE: HIJACKING OF BELIZE-FLAGGED CARGO

SHIP M/V FAINA IMO NUMBER 9419377

REF: STATE 103511

Classified By: Classified by Charge d, Affaires J.A. Diffily for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

- (S) Poloff delivered reftel demarche September 27 to Mr. Oliver del Cid, Deputy Coordinator of the National Security Council Secretariat, Ministry of National Security. Mr. del Cid stated that IMMARBE, the International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize, was concerned about the welfare of the crew. He stated that the pirates had allowed the crew to make one phone call on September 26 and they reported, at that time, that all crew members were safe. He said also that the Ministry of National Security was conscious that the situation needed to be dealt with due to the nature of the cargo and indicated that he presumed the U.S. would take some sort of action. Mr. del Cid is seeking concurrence at a higher level in the GOB as requested in reftel for possible U.S. military action as a last resort to prevent delivery of the cargo. He said he will report back to Poloff as soon as possible, understanding that post needs a reply by 29 September latest.
- ¶2. (S) Mr. del Cid asked whether the ship was moving.
- 13. (S) Mr. del Cid also said he was unable to comment on whether Belize would be willing or able to assist in prosecuting the pirates. He did indicate, however, that the GOB would likely need to know the estimated costs involved in prosecuting the hijackers.

 DIFFILY